

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**SB 718 - HB 1014**

April 17, 2001

**SUMMARY OF BILL:**

1. Requires the local board of education to establish a policy and guidelines for released time education for religious moral instruction for at least one class period each week up to a regular five-day per week schedule. Religious instruction will be allowed as a substitute for such classes as family life or sex education, guidance, character education, related arts, conflict resolution, drug awareness and elective courses.
2. Allows students to participate in such religious instruction subject to the following minimum requirements:
  - There is a released time provider of instruction and a location which meets parental approval within 5 miles of the school;
  - Such instruction shall be conducted off public school property;
  - Students must have written permission from parents prior to participation;
  - No released time costs shall be paid by the public school system;
  - Attendance records shall be kept and provided to the school;
  - Released time classes will coincide with school class schedules;
  - Liability insurance shall be maintained on the student, by the host facility or instruction provider, while participants are attending released time activities.
3. Provides that neither the school system, nor any entity of state government, will incur any liability during a released time program. Bill requires parents to waive any right to hold the public education system or the state liable. Students who attend released time classes shall be credited with time spent as if they had been in actual attendance in school and the time shall be calculated as part of the actual school day; therefore, there shall be no effect on funding for the school.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant**

Estimate assumes:

- any cost for the development and distribution of policies by the local board of education to the schools will not be significant.

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- no change in funding for the schools since students who leave campus will be considered as still in attendance for ADM purposes as required by the bill.
- neither the state nor local governments will incur any liability due to released time activities.
- any additional record keeping of such students and coordination of regular school class schedules will not be significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director